IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, paragraph [0021], with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0021] Regarding the above, it is prefered to prepare the crosslinking agent from an (α, ω) diamine and/or an (α, ω) dialdehyde. In order to produce linear crosslinking agents of controllable length, the first and second compound, each contain two reactive groups, the said reactive groups preferably being terminal groups. The length of such crosslinking agents can be varied in a modular way, i.e. by varying the ratio between the first and second compound, as is outlined above. The crosslinking agent of minimal length, herein defined as the "monomer", will consist of the molecular backbone of the first compound, such as an (α, ω) diamine, covalently linked at both termini thereof, to a second compound molecule. The next possible size of the crosslinking agent is formed by linking to the said molecule another diamine molecule (to one of the aldehyde groups of the "monomer") and by linkage of a ~~diamine~~ dialdehyde molecule to the second primary amino group of the said diamine. Thus, a modular length increase of the crosslinking agent can be obtained, the module consisting of one first compound molecule and one second compound molecule. It is however also possible to prepare a crosslinking agent according to the invention by using a mixture of a plurality of first and/or second compounds.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, paragraph [0024], with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0024] Preferably, the second and the first compound are combined in a molar ratio of 10-1:1, preferably 4-1:1, more preferably of 2,5-1,5:1, most preferably of 2:1. A molar excess of the ~~first~~ second compound, i.e. having the reactive aldehyde groups, will result theoretically in the monomeric form of the crosslinking agent, i.e. of which the majority of the molecules

consist of one molecule of the first compound, both primary amino groups thereof, being linked to a molecule of the second compound. Thus excess of the second compound is preferred to ensure the presence of the required free aldehyde groups on the crosslinking agent. The chemistry of the reaction between a dialdehyde, such as glutaraldehyde and a diamine is however rather complicated; in theory, when the ratio is about 1,5, the majority of the molecules of the crosslinking agent consists of two molecules of the first compound, linked together, through one of primary amino groups of each of the said molecules, by a molecule of the second compound. The free primary amino groups of both linked molecules of the first compound are each linked to a molecule of the ~~first~~ second compound, resulting in a polymer having two reactive aldehyde groups. The agent thus formed contains one additional module as compared to the "monomer", as outlined above. In this way, by varying the ratio between the second and the first compound in the preparation of the crosslinking agent according to the invention in the range between 2 and 1, crosslinking compounds can be obtained, comprising a plurality of molecules of the first compound, linked together by molecules of the second compound. In order to avoid free primary amino groups, the ratio should preferably not equal 1 or being lower than 1. Free amino groups cannot participate in the envisaged protein crosslinking in the preparation of CLEAs. The preparation of crosslinking agent of different length is illustrated in figure 1. It is to be stressed that the above is a theoretical consideration; without being bound to any explanation, it is believed that the actual ratios are higher than the corresponding theoretical ratios.